## Forms of Municipal Government

## **Statewide Totals**

Municipalities with a city form of government: 59
Municipalities with a town form of government: 292

Mayors: 47 (of which 3 are part of a mayor-manager form of government)

Manager-council form of government: 12

Town administrators: 173
Town managers: 79
Town coordinators: 6
Executive secretaries: 4

Other (administrative coordinator, chief administrative officer, executive assistant, executive director, general manager, municipal assistant): 11

Open town meetings: 259
Representative town meetings: 33
Three-member select boards: 146
Five-member select boards: 145
Seven-member town council: 1\*

**NOTES:** Some communities with a city form of government still refer to themselves as a town. The above list of municipal positions reflects only the number of each title statewide; the duties of a particular position will vary from community to community.

The name of each town's policy-making body (board of selectmen or select board) has either been provided by the town or taken from the description on the town's website. A number of communities are taking formal steps to change the name to "select board," while others have informally begun using the new name while making the transition.

\* Wakefield renamed its board of selectmen as a town council in 2018, but the responsibilities were not changed.

## **Abbreviations**

AC	Administrative Coordinator	TA	Town Administrator
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer	TC	Town Coordinator
ED	Executive Director	TM	Town Manager
ES	Executive Secretary	OTM	Open town meeting
ExA	Executive Assistant	RTM	Representative
GM	General Manager	LIIVI	town meeting
MuA	Municipal Assistant		town modulig

Communities with a city form of government are listed in all capital letters.

Letters in parentheses for certain cities indicate the use of one of the optional plans of city government ("model city charters") as authorized by Chapter 43 (Plan A, B, C, D, E or F). Cities that are not identified by a letter column are governed by provisions or special charters granted by the Legislature.

Some municipalities have adopted a home rule charter under the provisions of the Home Rule amendment and Chapter 43B. The first year in which the home rule charter was adopted is in parentheses.

Massachusetts law provides that no town with a population of less than 12,000 may adopt a city form of government, and no town with a population of less than 6,000 may have a representative town meeting.

In towns that do not have a chief municipal official, the chair of the Select Board fulfills that role.

Information in this chart was compiled from an annual MMA survey of each city and town in the state.

Community         Official         Board         Body           Abington (1974)         TM         Selectmen (5)         OTM           Acton (1969)         TM         Selectmen (5)         OTM           Acushnet (1971)         TA         Selectmen (3)         OTM           Adams (1983)         TA         Select Board (3)         OTM           Afford         Select Board (3)         OTM           Afford         Select Board (3)         OTM           AMMESBURY (1996) (F)         Mayor         Council (13)           Amdover         TM         Select Board (5)         OTM           Andover         TM         Select Board (5)         OTM           Aquinnah         TA         Select Board (5)         OTM           Arlington         TM         Select Board (5)         OTM           Ashburnham         TA         Select Board (3)         OTM           Ashby         TA         Select Board (5)         OTM           Ashfield         TA         Select Board (5)         OTM           Athol         TM         Select Board (6)         OTM           Attraction (1973)         Mayor         Council (111           Aver         TM         Sel		Chief Municipal	Policy	Legislative
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Belmont (1926)TASelect Board (3)RTMBerkleyTASelectmen (3)OTMBerlinTASelect Board (3)OTMBernardstonTCSelect Board (3)OTMBEVERLY (A)MayorCouncil (9)Billerica (1979)TMSelectmen (5)RTMBlackstone (1974)TASelectmen (5)OTMBlandfordTASelect Board (3)OTMBoltonTASelectmen (3)OTMBOSTON (A)MayorCouncil (13)BourneTASelectmen (5)OTMBoxboroughTASelect Board (5)OTMBoxfordTASelectmen (5)OTMBoylstonTASelectmen (3)OTMBRAINTREEMayorCouncil (9)BrewsterTASelect Board (5)OTMBRIDGEWATERTMCouncil (9)BrimfieldSelectmen (5)OTMBROCKTONMayorCouncil (11)BrookfieldSelectmen (3)OTMBrooklineTASelect Board (5)RTM	Belchertown	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
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Billerica (1979)         TM         Selectmen (5)         RTM           Blackstone (1974)         TA         Selectmen (5)         OTM           Blandford         TA         Select Board (3)         OTM           Bolton         TA         Selectmen (3)         OTM           BOSTON (A)         Mayor         Council (13)           Bourne         TA         Selectmen (5)         OTM           Boxborough         TA         Select Board (5)         OTM           Boylston         TA         Selectmen (3)         OTM           BRAINTREE         Mayor         Council (9)           Brewster         TA         Select Board (5)         OTM           BRIDGEWATER         TM         Council (9)           Brimfield         Selectmen (5)         OTM           BROCKTON         Mayor         Council (11)           Brookfield         Selectmen (3)         OTM           Brookline         TA         Select Board (5)         RTM	Bernardston	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
Blackstone (1974)TASelectmen (5)OTMBlandfordTASelect Board (3)OTMBoltonTASelectmen (3)OTMBOSTON (A)MayorCouncil (13)BourneTASelectmen (5)OTMBoxboroughTASelect Board (5)OTMBoxfordTASelectmen (5)OTMBoylstonTASelectmen (3)OTMBRAINTREEMayorCouncil (9)BrewsterTASelect Board (5)OTMBRIDGEWATERTMCouncil (9)BrimfieldSelectmen (5)OTMBROCKTONMayorCouncil (11)BrookfieldSelectmen (3)OTMBrooklineTASelect Board (5)RTM	BEVERLY (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
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BOSTON (A) Mayor Council (13) Bourne TA Selectmen (5) OTM Boxborough TA Select Board (5) OTM Boxford TA Selectmen (5) OTM Boylston TA Selectmen (3) OTM BRAINTREE Mayor Council (9) Brewster TA Select Board (5) OTM BRIDGEWATER TM Council (9) Brimfield Selectmen (5) OTM BROCKTON Mayor Council (11) Brookfield Selectmen (3) OTM Brookline TA Select Board (5) RTM	Blandford	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
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BoxboroughTASelect Board (5)OTMBoxfordTASelectmen (5)OTMBoylstonTASelectmen (3)OTMBRAINTREEMayorCouncil (9)BrewsterTASelect Board (5)OTMBRIDGEWATERTMCouncil (9)BrimfieldSelectmen (5)OTMBROCKTONMayorCouncil (11)BrookfieldSelectmen (3)OTMBrooklineTASelect Board (5)RTM	BOSTON (A)	Mayor		Council (13)
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BROCKTONMayorCouncil (11)BrookfieldSelectmen (3)OTMBrooklineTASelect Board (5)RTM	BRIDGEWATER	TM		Council (9)
Brookfield Selectmen (3) OTM Brookline TA Select Board (5) RTM			Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Brookline</b> TA Select Board (5) RTM	BROCKTON	Mayor		Council (11)
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BucklandTASelect Board (3)OTM			٠,	
	Buckland	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM

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	Chief Municipal	Policy	Legislative
Community	Official	Board	Body
Burlington	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
CAMBRIDGE (1941) (E)	Mayor-Manager		Council (9)
Canton	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Carlisle	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Carver	TA	Select Board (5)	
Charlemont		Select Board (3)	
Charlton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Chatham	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Chelmsford (1989)	TM	Select Board (5)	
CHELSEA	Manager		Council (11)
Cheshire	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Chester	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Chesterfield	TA	Select Board (3)	
CHICOPEE	Mayor		Council (13)
Chilmark	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Clarksburg	TA	Select Board (3)	) OTM
Clinton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Cohasset	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Colrain	TC	Select Board (3)	) OTM
<b>Concord</b> (1957)	TM	Select Board (5)	) OTM
Conway	TA	Select Board (3)	
Cummington		Select Board (3)	
Dalton	TM	Select Board (5)	
Danvers	TM	Select Board (5)	
Dartmouth	TA	Select Board (5)	
<b>Dedham</b> (1974)	TM	Select Board (5)	
Deerfield	TA	Select Board (3)	
Dennis	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Dighton	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Douglas	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Dover	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Dracut</b> (1985)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Dudley	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Dunstable	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Duxbury	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
East Bridgewater	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
East Brookfield	Τ.	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Eastham	TA	Select Board (5)	
EASTHAMPTON (1996)	Mayor		Council (9)
EAST LONGMEADOW	TM	0     0	Council (7)
Easton (1972)	TA	Select Board (5)	
Edgartown	TA	Selectmen (3)	MTO
Egremont	۸٥	Select Board (3)	
Erving	AC TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
ESSEX	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM Council (11)
EVERETT	Mayor TA	Coloctmon (2)	Council (11) RTM
Fairhaven		Selectmen (3)	
FALL RIVER (A)	Mayor	Coloctmon (E)	Council (9) RTM
Falmouth	TM Mayor	Selectmen (5)	
FITCHBURG (B) Florida	Mayor TA	Coloct Poord (2)	Council (11)
ισια	IA	Select Board (3)	) OTM

Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
Foxborough	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
FRAMINGHAM	Mayor	00.000(0)	Council (11)
FRANKLIN (1978)	TA		Council (9)
Freetown	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
GARDNER (B)	Mayor	001001111011 (0)	Council (11)
Georgetown	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Gill	TA	Select Board (3)	
GLOUCESTER (1975)	Mayor	ooloot board (o,	Council (9)
Goshen	TA	Select Board (3)	` '
Gosnold	171	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Grafton (1987)	TA	Select Board (5)	
Granby	TA	Select Board (3)	
Granville	TA	Select Board (3)	
Great Barrington	TM	Select Board (5)	
GREENFIELD (2003)	Mayor	Select Board (S	Council (13)
Groton	TM	Select Board (5)	
Groveland	TIVI	Select board (5)	OTM
Hadley	TA	Selectifier (5) Select Board (5)	
Halifax	TA	Select board (3)	OTM
Hamilton	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hampden	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hancock	IA	. , ,	OTM
Hanover	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
	TA	Selectmen (5)	
Hanson Hardwick	TA TA	Selectmen (5)	MTO
Harvard	TA	Selectmen (3) Select Board (5)	OTM OTM
Harwich	TA	, ,	OTM
Hatfield	TA TA	Selectmen (5) Selectmen (3)	OTM
HAVERHILL (A)	Mayor	Selectifier (S)	Council (9)
Hawley	iviayoi	Select Board (3)	, ,
Heath	TC	Select Board (3)	
Hingham	TA	Select board (3)	OTM
Hinsdale	TA	Select Board (3)	
Holbrook	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Holden	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Holland	TA	Select Board (3)	
Holliston	TA	Select Board (3)	
HOLYOKE (A)	Mayor	Select Board (S	Council (13)
Hopedale	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hopkinton	TM	Select Board (5)	
Hubbardston	TA	Select board (5)	OTM
<b>Hudson</b> (1971)	ExA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hull	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Huntington	TIVI	Selectifier (3)	
Ipswich	TM	Select Board (5)	
Kingston	TA	Select board (5)	OTM
Lakeville	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Lancaster	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Lanesborough	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
LAWRENCE (1983)	Mayor	00100111011 (0)	Council (9)
Lee	CAO	Selectmen (3)	RTM
LUU	UAU	001001111011 (0)	TTTTVI

Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
Leicester	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Lenox	CAO	Selectmen (5)	OTM
LEOMINSTER (1969) (A)	Mayor	( )	Council (9)
Leverett	TA	Select Board (3)	
Lexington	TM	Select Board (5)	
Leyden	MuA	Select Board (3)	
Lincoln	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Littleton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Longmeadow (2004)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
LOWELL (E)	Mayor-Manager		Council (9)
Ludlow	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Lunenburg	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
LYNN (A)	Mayor		Council (11)
Lynnfield (1971)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
MALDEN (A)	Mayor		Council (11)
Manchester-by-the-Sea	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Mansfield (1920)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Marblehead	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Marion	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
MARLBOROUGH (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
Marshfield (1976)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Mashpee	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Mattapoisett	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Maynard	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Medfield (1972)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
MEDFORD (A)	Mayor		Council (7)
Medway	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
MELROSE (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
Mendon	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Merrimac		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>METHUEN</b> (1972)	Mayor		Council (9)
Middleborough	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Middlefield	TA	Select Board (3)	
Middleton (1974)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Milford	TA	Selectmen (3)	RTM
Millbury	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Millis</b> (1977)	TA	Select Board (3)	
Millville	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Milton (</b> 1927)	TA	Select Board (5)	
Monroe		Select Board (3)	
Monson	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Montague	TA	Select Board (3)	
Monterey		Select Board (3)	
Montgomery		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Mount Washington		Select Board (3)	
<b>Nahant (</b> 1980)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Nantucket	TM	Select Board (5)	
Natick (1980)	TA	Select Board (5)	
Needham	TM	Select Board (5)	
New Ashford		Select Board (3)	
NEW BEDFORD (B)	Mayor		Council (11)

Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
New Braintree	ES	Select Board (3)	OTM
Newbury	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
NEWBURYPORT (1919) (B)	Mayor	. ,	Council (11)
New Marlborough	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
New Salem	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>NEWTON</b> (1972) (A)	Mayor		Council (24)
Norfolk	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
NORTH ADAMS (A)	Mayor	(-,	Council (9)
NORTHAMPTON (B)	Mayor		Council (9)
North Andover (1986)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH	TM	,	Council (9)
Northborough (1970)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Northbridge	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
North Brookfield		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Northfield	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
North Reading (1970)	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Norton</b> (1989)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Norwell (1973)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Norwood	GM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Oak Bluffs	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
0akham		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Orange	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Orleans</b> (1987)	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Otis</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Oxford</b> (1972)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>PALMER</b> (2004)	TM		Council (7)
Paxton	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
PEABODY (D)	Mayor		Council (11)
Pelham		Select Board (3)	OTM
Pembroke	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Pepperell	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Peru	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Petersham	AC	Select Board (3)	OTM
Phillipston	CAO	Select Board (3)	OTM
PITTSFIELD (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
Plainfield	AC	Select Board (3)	OTM
Plainville	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Plymouth (1973)	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
Plympton	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Princeton	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Provincetown (1990)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
QUINCY (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
RANDOLPH	TM	0.1.1.(0)	Council (9)
Raynham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Reading (1986)	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
Rehoboth	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
REVERE (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
Richmond	TA	Selectmen (3)	MTO
Rochester	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Rockland (1970)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Rockport	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM

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Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
Rowe	ES	Select Board (3)	OTM
Rowley	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Royalston		Select Board (3)	OTM
Russell		Select Board (3)	OTM
Rutland	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
SALEM (B)	Mayor	. ,	Council (11)
Salisbury (1988)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sandisfield	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Sandwich	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Saugus (</b> 1947)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Savoy		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Scituate (1972)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Seekonk (1976)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sharon	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Sheffield	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Shelburne	TA	Select Board (3)	
Sherborn	TA	Select Board (5)	
Shirley	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Shrewsbury	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Shutesbury	TA	Select Board (3)	
Somerset	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
SOMERVILLE (A)	Mayor	00100111011 (0)	Council (11)
Southampton	TA	Select Board (5)	, ,
Southborough	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
SOUTHBRIDGE (1974)	TM	00100111011 (0)	Council (9)
South Hadley	TA	Select Board (5)	, ,
Southwick	CAO	Select Board (3)	
Spencer	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
SPRINGFIELD (A)	Mayor	001001111011 (0)	Council (13)
Sterling	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Stockbridge (1937)	TA	Select Board (3)	
Stoneham	TA	Select Board (5)	
Stoughton (1972)	TM	Select Board (5)	
Stow	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sturbridge (1973)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Sudbury</b> (1994)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sunderland	TA	Select Board (3)	
<b>Sutton</b> (1988)	TM	Select Board (5)	
Swampscott (1969)	TA	Select Board (5)	
Swansea	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
TAUNTON	Mayor	00.0000(0)	Council (9)
Templeton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Tewksbury	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Tisbury	TA	Select Board (3)	
Tolland		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Topsfield	TA	Select Board (5)	
Townsend	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Truro	TM	Select Board (5)	
Tyngsborough	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Tyringham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Upton	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
- L - z		23.000011 (0)	

Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
Uxbridge	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Wakefield	TA	Council (7)*	OTM
Wales	ES	Select Board (3)	OTM
Walpole (1973)	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
WALTHAM (B)	Mayor		Council (15)
Ware	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Wareham (1977)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Warren		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Warwick	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
Washington		Select Board (3)	OTM
WATERTOWN (1980)	TM		Council (9)
Wayland	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Webster (1987)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Wellesley	ED	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Wellfleet (1986)	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Wendell	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
Wenham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Westborough (1974)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
West Boylston	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
West Bridgewater	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
West Brookfield	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM
WESTFIELD (B)	Mayor		Council (13)
Westford	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Westhampton		Select Board (3)	OTM
Westminster	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
West Newbury	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Weston	TM	Select Board (3)	OTM
Westport	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
WEST SPRINGFIELD (2000)			Council (9)
West Stockbridge	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
West Tisbury	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Westwood (1970)	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>WEYMOUTH</b> (1999)	Mayor		Council (11)
Whately	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Whitman	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Wilbraham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Williamsburg	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Williamstown	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Wilmington (1950)	TM	Selectmen (5)	MTO
Winchendon (1981)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Winchester (1975)	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
Windsor	T. 4	Select Board (3)	OTM
WINTHROP (2005)	TM		Council (9)
WOBURN	Mayor		Council (9)
WORCESTER	Mayor-Manager		Council (11)
Wronthom	ΤΛ	Select Board (3)	MTO
Wrentham	TA	Selectmen (5)	MTO
Yarmouth	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM